

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1984

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, ECON, YO

SUBJ: NATIONWIDE ELECTRIC POWER SHORTAGE IN YUGOSLAVIA

1. SUMMARY: POWER SHORTAGES IN ALL REGIONS OF YUGOSLAVIA HAVE BROUGHT SOME MODERATE CUTBACKS IN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, AND RESTRICTIONS ON STREET, SHOP AND HOUSEHOLD LIGHTING. END SUMMARY

2. SHORTAGES ARE DUE TO (A) LACK OF PRECIPITATION, WHICH HAS LED TO REDUCED HYDROELECTRIC PLANT OUTPUT; (B) INADEQUATE COAL SUPPLIES, WHICH HAVE HAMPERED THERMO-ELECTRIC PLANTS; (C) POWER PLANT BREAKDOWNS; AND (D) FAILURE TO COMPLETE NEW POWER PLANTS ON TIME -- INCLUDING KOSOVO V, MRATINJE (MONTENEGRO) AND VARAZDIN (CROATIA).

3. SITUATION RELATIVELY MOST DIFFICULT IN MONTENEGRO (WHERE ELECTRICITY FOR IMPORTANT TITOGRAD ALUMINUM COMBINE HAS BEEN REDUCED 10 PERCENT, AND FOR KIDRIC STEELWORKS AND OTHER CONSUMERS, 20 PERCENT) AND IN MACEDONIA WHERE RESTRICTIONS

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ON CONSUMPTION HAVE BEEN IN EFFECT FOR ONE MONTH.

4. IN BELGRADE, ZAGREB, SARAJEVO AND SOME OTHER CITIES, STREET AND SHOP LIGHTING REDUCED 50 PERCENT, AND ELECTRIC VOLTAGE CUT TO LOWEST PERMISSIBLE LEVEL. 10 TO 20 PERCENT OVERALL POWER REDUCTIONS, INCLUDING PARTIAL CUTOFFS FOR SEVERAL HOURS A DAY, IN EFFECT IN SKOPLJE.

5. SHORT-TERM MEASURES TO INCREASE QUANTITIES OF ELECTRICITY INCLUDE EXTRA SHIFTS FOR COAL MINERS AND IMPORT OF SMALL EXTRA QUANTITIES OF ELECTRICITY FROM ITALY AND GREECE.

6. COMMENT: LASTING IMPROVEMENT IN ELECTRIC POWER AND COAL SITUATION IS LIKELY ONLY TOWARD END OF DECADE WHEN SUBSTANTIAL NEW CAPACITY IS EXPECTED TO COME ON STREAM. FOR 1975, IT IS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER PLANNED THREE MILLION TON INCREASE IN COAL OUTPUT TO 36 MILLION TONS CAN BE REALIZED BASED ONLY ON MORE RATIONAL AND SOMEWHAT MORE MECHANIZED EXPLOITATION OF EXISTING MINES, AND THERE MAY BE UP TO 2 BILLION KWH ELECTRICITY DEFICIT. SIMILAR POWER SHORTAGES IN EARLY 1974 DID NOT KEEP INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION FROM 11 PERCENT ANNUAL VOLUME RISE, HOWEVER, NOR ARE THERE INDICATIONS YET OF ANY SERIOUS SLOWING OF ECONOMY THIS WINTER DUE TO ENERGY SHORTAGES.

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